The King's Empire

And How It Grew

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THE KING'S EMPIRE AND HOW IT GREW

H.M. KING GEORGE V.

Photo by J. Russell and Son.

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THE KING'S EMPIRE AND HOW IT GREW

BY
M. I.

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER
By M. B. SYNGE, F.R.Hist.S.

TWENTY ILLUSTRATIONS FROM
PHOTOGRAPHS AND A MAP

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DEDICATION

Being Lord Norton's tribute to the memory of his father, to call to the remembrance of the younger generation of Imperialists the life-long ambition of this Statesman for an "Imperial Fellowship of Self-Governing Kindred Nations" under One King and One Flag, at a time when the idea of a United Empire was but the dream of the few.

As Under-Secretary for the Colonies from 1866–68 during Lord Derby's third Administration, he took an active part in the establishment of Self-Government for the Colonies, holding office when, on July 1, 1867, the Dominion of Canada came into being.

His Colonial policy was in advance of his times, and his dream of Federation has already been partially realised in the consolidation of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

"Let this thing be. Who shall our realm divide?
Ever we stand together, Kinsmen, side by side."

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THE KING'S EMPIRE

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

ALTHOUGH so much has been written and spoken on the well-worn subject of the British Empire, yet another small handbook needs no apology, for to every Englishman and every Englishwoman, to every boy and every girl, the idea of a united Empire should teem with a vital, an almost overwhelming interest.

For it is not too much to say that in the development of our Empire lies the whole future of our race—that race which throughout the long ages has been accomplishing her great destiny—that race which, we firmly believe, has a still greater destiny before her in the ages yet to come.

Steadily, if very slowly, the idea of a united Empire has grown in the minds of men throughout the last half century. Step by step the union of the large overseas Dominions has paved the

way for a yet larger union of the very Dominions themselves. Link by link the chain has been forged by those at home and those abroad, but so far, in this historic year 1911, there still exists but one formal bond of union, and that lies in the person of our King-Emperor George V.

The Crown alone is the centre and symbol of our Imperial Unity. What other bond have we? We do not all speak the same language. Members of the British Empire speak in all sorts of strange tongues—in India alone no less than 150 languages are spoken. There are French in Canada, Dutch in South Africa, Maoris in New Zealand; there are the familiar Arabs, Kaffirs, Sudanese, Gurkhas, Hausas, Zulus—each speaking their own tongue, knowing, perhaps, no word of English save the name of the English king!

Neither do we all profess the same religion. Although Christianity is the prevailing religion of our race, there are thousands and tens of thousands of Mohammedans, Brahmans, Buddhists, and Confucians in our Eastern Empire.

We have no Imperial army. Each part of the Empire has its own system of local defence. Canada has her militia, and a permanent army comprising the Royal Canadian cavalry, artillery

and infantry. Australia likewise has her own local regiments, and with her recent adoption of compulsory service will have a large number of trained men to draw on in time of need. Who will ever forget the generous offer of troops from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, when the Mother Country was in trouble?

'Ever we stand together, Kinsmen, side by side.'

And who does not remember at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee the dazzling uniforms of the Bengal cavalry and lancers, the Punjab cavalry, the Maltese artillery, the little Borneo Dyaks, the scarlet-coated artillery from Jamaica, detachments from the Straits Settlements, from the Gold Coast, and many others.

There is at present no Imperial navy, though the larger Dominions are beginning to move in this direction and the whole question is under deep consideration.

Thus from the ice-bound solitudes of northern Labrador, to the dense steaming forests of Ashanti and Uganda; from the rice-fields of Burma, the jungles of North Borneo, the sugar plantations of the West Indies; from end to end of this world-wide Empire of ours, we talk of Imperial union, and the subject is nothing short of colossal.

To understand our position to-day, it will be well to trace briefly the main steps by which we have achieved it.

Up to the year 1887, men only dreamed of an Empire.

'I believe,' said Cecil Rhodes in 1883, 'I believe in a United States of South Africa, but as a portion of the British Empire.'

'When self-government was conceded,' said one of England's great prime ministers, 'it ought to have been conceded as part of a great policy of Imperial consolidation. It ought to have been accompanied by an Imperial tariff and by a military code. It ought further to have been accompanied by the institution of some representative council, which would have brought the colonies into constant and continuous relations with the home country.'

But the unheeding crowd paid no attention to the declarations of such Imperial dreamers, who, like seers, were looking ahead into a misty and unknown future, waiting for a day that might never dawn. Until, one by one, they have passed away, their inspiring voices are silent, their ideal is yet unattained.

In 1887 the first official step was taken by

QUEEN VICTORIA.

Photo by Lafayette, Ltd.

England, when she called representatives of the various self-governing colonies to discuss questions affecting Imperial matters, such as the re-adjustment of trade and colonial defence. It was little more than a friendly meeting and nothing was settled.

Ten years later, a brilliant idea struck Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, an English statesman, who had long dreamed of some possible union of the scattered Empire beyond that of kingship. Why not ask the premiers of our overseas Dominions to come over and take part in the Jubilee festivities to be celebrated in honour of Queen Victoria's sixty years' reign? The premiers, with one voice, accepted England's invitation. Their welcome to the heart of the Empire exceeded all expectation. The Mother Country was beginning to realise the importance of her overseas Dominions, and we greeted our fellow-countrymen with a spontaneous outburst of cheering, that startled the Old Country into enthusiasm.

'So long as The Blood endures
I shall know that your good is mine. Ye shall feel that my strength is yours.'

During the visit of the colonial representatives

to London, another conference was held, and Mr. Chamberlain made his first great speech in favour of Imperial unity.

'You have been for a long time in our thoughts,' he said. 'Your claims, your wishes, the resources of your separate countries, your political conditions —all these things are becoming familiar to us, as if we were all provinces in one great Kingdom or States in a true Imperial Federation. I think that further knowledge must tend to complete the agreement between us, and that it will bring within the range of practical politics that splendid dream, which has been cherished by the greatest and most patriotic of statesmen.'

But again little was done. All agreed that the present political relations between the United Kingdom and the self-governing colonies were generally satisfactory under the existing condition of things. The South African war in 1899 brought out a very burst of loyal and patriotic feelings throughout the whole Empire. Men from Canada stood beside their brothers from England, Australia, and New Zealand. Man after man laid down his life for his Mother Country. They felt, indeed,

> 'The touch of human brotherhood, to act
> As one great nation, true and strong as steel.'

Rt. HON. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

Photo by London Stereoscopic Co

And Englishmen knew that another link had been forged in the chain. Again, the passing of the great Queen of the Empire in 1901 created a boundless and universal grief from all her subjects throughout the world.

Then came the wonderful Federation of the Australian Commonwealth, when the six States decided to unite. Queen Victoria, before she died, had realised the immense importance of this step and had promised to send her grandson and his wife to open the first parliament of the new Commonwealth. How our present King and Queen carried out the late Queen's wishes is well known, and it is certain that their subsequent tour round a great part of the Empire helped materially in the slowly dawning union.

Thus the conference that took place in London in 1902 stood in a somewhat different position to that which had taken place in 1897.

'If you want us to help you, call us to your councils,' the Canadian premier had said, after the South African war.

'Gentlemen,' replied Mr. Chamberlain, 'we do want your aid. We do require your assistance in the administration of the vast Empire, *which is yours as well as ours.* We have borne the

burden for many years. We think it is time that our children should assist us to support it, and whenever you make the request to us be very sure that we shall hasten gladly to call you to our councils. If you are prepared at any time to take your share in the burdens of the Empire, we are prepared to meet you with any proposal for giving you a corresponding voice in the policy of the Empire.'

Again matters of vast importance to the whole Empire were freely discussed—Imperial defence, Imperial tariff, Imperial councils. But their task, as we have already observed, was colossal; and those who realised the difficulties were hardly surprised that little was accomplished. However, they all agreed that these conferences should take place periodically.

Further progress was made in 1907. The word 'colony' was to disappear and 'Dominion' to be substituted; thus the conference was to be known as the Imperial Conference rather than colonial. Further, there should be conferences between governments, and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom should be President, while a Secretariat should be established under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to obtain information for the use of the conference.

Lastly, the union of the South African States in 1909 was one of the most momentous events in all our Imperial history, and the opening of the House of Assembly by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught is fresh in the memory of all. For so another great Dominion passed into the British Empire!

Such, very briefly, is the history of this loose confederacy of Dominions, which we call a part of the British Empire. But a change is already passing over the ideas of Imperial Federation. Although England is still the heart of the Empire, although her wealth and her huge white population must give her superiority for some time to come, it is suggested that not much longer can she be the Mother speaking to her Children, still dependent on her, no longer shall she, of necessity, rule all Imperial debates. She may become a partner in a great confederacy, the leading State in a new-born Imperial Union.

The outlook of to-day has changed. 'The scattered groups of colonies have become great Dominions,' says a leading Imperialist. 'They are no longer inhabited by colonists, but by young nations conscious of their individuality and filled with the ambition of a great national

destiny. In actual population they number over thirteen million people. But we must not think so much of what they have become already, but of what, with their vast territories and boundless resources, they mean to become in the near future. . . . The long seclusion of the Empire has been broken. The younger nations have been wakened up out of their dreams of peaceful material development to find themselves in the very midst of the world's struggle for economic and military power. They are developing . . . ambitions beyond their own boundaries. At every point they are coming in contact with foreign powers and with different parts of the British Empire. The conduct of foreign affairs, the command of the sea, the general administration of the Empire are becoming matters of vital and urgent concern to every one of them.'

The change, which is inevitable, can only be in one of two directions. One is separation, the other is Imperial partnership. They must either become absolutely independent States, conducting the whole of their external affairs without interference and without help, or else they must become equal partners in a United Empire based on mutual support and joint responsibility.

We cannot surely contemplate the first—we

THE LATE LORD NORTON.

Photo by Elliott and Fry.

Englishmen—we 'band of brothers,' we nation of sailors—the greatest sea-power in the world—cannot now fall back, loose our glorious heritage, and allow the younger nations, as well as ourselves, to engage in a single-handed struggle against the whole world!

It is just because no loyal member of the Crown desires to see such a disaster befall the Empire, that soon—very soon—this tremendous issue must be decided, whether this Empire of ours, so gloriously won, 'so lightly held together, is to stand together or to fall apart into separate States, each selfishly seeking its own interest alone, losing sight of the common weal and all the advantages that union alone can give.' It is just because our Dominions overseas want us and we want them that we meet on common ground to discuss great Imperial subjects that may help to solve the mighty problem.

Remember the cry of our early colonists: 'Although colonists, we have not ceased to be *Englishmen.* Wherever we are and by whatever name we are known, we still claim all the privileges, the birthright, the aspirations and ambitions of Englishmen.'

'British citizenship is the most valuable

citizenship in the whole world,' says a leading Imperialist. 'The man of white race who is born a British subject can find a home in every portion of the world, where he can live under his own flag, enjoying the same absolute freedom and the same protection for person or property as he has always enjoyed, using his own language and possessing from the first moment that he sets foot there the full rights of citizenship. It is needless to dwell on the vast advantage which it is to the people of the United Kingdom to be able to make homes for themselves in so many parts of the new world without ceasing to be Britons.'

> 'Sons, be welded each and all
> Into one Imperial whole
> One with Britain, heart and soul!
> One life, one flag, one fleet, one Throne!'

We are then citizens, not only of our village, or our town, but citizens of a world-wide State. Let us read, then, and learn more about these distant lands of ours, look at the questions of government and at the possibilities of union from both sides, study the varying conditions of life in various parts of the Empire, remembering ever that we are sharers in a common heritage. This partnership, this brotherhood, is something

more glorious than the world has ever seen. It is an ideal worth working for, worth waiting for. 'Keep this aim steadily in view, lose no opportunity of working for it, resist like grim death any policy which draws you away from it. I know to be faithful in this service requires the rarest of combinations, that of ceaseless effort with infinite patience. But then think of the greatness of the reward—the high privilege of having in any way contributed to the fulfilment of one of the noblest conceptions which have ever dawned on the political imagination of mankind.'

CHAPTER I

THE KING

His Most Excellent Majesty George the Fifth, by the Grace of God King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India—such is our King's full title. He is the direct descendant of the first King of England, Egbert the Saxon, and of the Norman, William the Conqueror, whose son, Henry I, married a Saxon Princess, thus uniting the two royal lines. Ireland became subject to the English Crown towards the end of the twelfth century, Wales about one hundred and thirty years later. In 1301 the title of 'Prince of Wales' was bestowed on the young Prince Edward, son of Edward I, and it has ever since been borne by the eldest son of the reigning monarch. Scotland was a separate kingdom until

much later, 1603, when the succession passed to the Stuarts, and James I became the first King of Great Britain. His predecessor, Queen Elizabeth, was the first English sovereign who could claim an 'Overseas Dominion,' if we except the French possessions of the Plantagenets, for the colony of Virginia was named in her honour by Sir Walter Raleigh.

Under the Stuart kings the American colonies were extended, but remained the property of the Crown, and gradually other 'Overseas' domains were added to them. But it was not until the reign of Queen Victoria that the title 'Emperor of India' was added to the English Crown, while that of Sovereign of the 'Dominions beyond the Seas' was only adopted by King Edward VII. The remaining title, that of 'Defender of the Faith,' stands for much of national and historic interest. Originally bestowed by the Pope upon Henry VIII, as a reward for a treatise written by the King in defence of the doctrines of the Church of Rome that had been attacked by Luther, it was retained to signify that the sovereign of England is the foremost champion of the Reformed Faith. As such he is still required, at the first meeting of Parliament after his accession, solemnly to declare that he

will uphold and maintain the National Church. The king of any primitive State is usually an absolute monarch, but in England there has been less personal despotism than in any known civilisation, and from the time of the signing of Magna Charta, in 1215, the liberties of the subject have been secured by law. The most autocratic ruler this country has ever seen was Oliver Cromwell, Dictator of the Commonwealth of 1649–1660. With that short interval, the line of constitutional sovereigns has continued for close upon seven hundred years, and while time and custom have changed the personal duties of the monarch, his responsibilities to the State, and the obligations of the State to the Crown, with the benefits of their mutual loyalty, remain to our own day. The King no longer rules of his own initiative, but through his Ministers, who are chosen from among the elected representatives of the nation. But yet the personal influence of the King, his character and will, must always make themselves felt. Who shall measure the power for good wielded by our late King, Edward VII, who has been well called the Peacemaker? His great ability and grasp of international problems, and his unfailing tact, averted war on more than one

KING EDWARD VII

Photo by Lafayette, Ltd.

occasion, and brought about what a distinguished writer has described as 'the most historic series of friendly understandings and definite treaties that have graced the pages of modern history, all making for peace in every quarter of the world.' And it must be remembered, above all, that the Crown is our great link of Empire. The younger nations, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, are self-governing. They owe no allegiance to the Parliament at Westminster, but they are proud to call themselves subjects of the King.

King George V, second son of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, was born at Marlborough House on June 3, 1865. He was early destined for the navy, in which as a younger son it was intended that he should make his career. He entered the *Britannia* with his brother, the Duke of Clarence, in 1877, and went through the usual course of a cadet's training. After two years the young princes, as midshipmen, started on a long cruise on board H.M.S. *Bacchante*. With the rest of the squadron they went to the West Indies and South America. While there the fleet was ordered to the Cape, in consequence of the outbreak of the first Boer war, and thus early in life our present King had to know something of

the burdens as well as the glories of the Empire. The diary kept by the two young princes during their period of service abroad shows a keen interest in the lands visited, and much boyish pride in their own country and their profession. Prince George especially was devoted to the navy, —for him it was a chosen career. From South Africa the *Bacchante* was sent to Australia, and here the young princes had fifteen days leave to visit the mining centres and see something of Australian life. After touching at all the Australian ports, the *Bacchante* cruised northward to the China Seas, and visited Japan, China, and our Eastern colonies, Hong-Kong, Singapore, and Ceylon.

This first sight of the world, more especially of the British Empire, made an indelible impression on the mind of the boy who was later—unexpectedly—to be its King, and from this time dates that keen personal interest that King George has always shown in Greater Britain. On the return journey some time was spent in Egypt and Palestine, and nearly three years elapsed before they arrived home again. From this time the royal brothers were separated, the Duke of Clarence went into the army, while Prince George continued his naval career. He was appointed in 1883 to H.M.S.

Canada on the North American station, and served successively in the *Thunderer*, *Dreadnought*, and *Alexandra*, and in due course commanded his own ship, H.M.S. *Thrush*. He had just reached the rank of Commander when the death of his elder brother placed him in the position of Heir to the throne, and obliged him to resign his chosen career. But sixteen years of active service in the navy have given our King an experience and knowledge of life and of the world that is seldom the lot of royalty, and in all subjects connected with the navy and with Imperial Defence we have a ruler who can speak with authority.

In 1893 our King, then Duke of York, married the Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, and they have now five sons and one daughter. For some years the Duke and Duchess of York lived rather quietly at home, with an occasional state visit to Scotland or Ireland, but in the autumn of 1900, when the Federation of the States of Australia was finally arranged, Queen Victoria nominated her grandson to represent her at the opening of the first Parliament of the Commonwealth. The Queen died before her wish could be fulfilled, but it was carried out exactly as she had desired, and the journey further extended to allow visits to

New Zealand and Canada. On March 16, 1901, the Duke and Duchess of York left England in the *Ophir*, touched at Gibraltar, Malta, and Aden, spent a week in Ceylon, and a few days at Singapore, giving our present Queen her first sight of the East. On May 6, 1901, the *Ophir*, escorted by two cruisers, reached Melbourne, and amid the greatest enthusiasm of the Australians the first Parliament of Federated Australia was declared open. Visits followed to the capital cities of Queensland and New South Wales, and thence the *Ophir* set sail for New Zealand, where the royal travellers made a tour through the islands. From New Zealand they turned back again to Tasmania and the Western States of Australia.

A long voyage followed, from Australia to Mauritius, and from Mauritius to South Africa. The war was barely over, it was not a moment for a journey through the interior, but the colonies of Natal and the Cape welcomed their future King. A still longer voyage followed, from the Cape of Good Hope to Quebec. Here the Duke and Duchess landed and travelled all through the Dominion of Canada, staying at Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Victoria and Toronto, Halifax, Hobart, and Newfoundland. In Australia they had seen

QUEBEC,
Chateau Fontenac and Monument.

the great sheep and horse farms and the gold mines; in Canada they were shown the vast wheat fields and 'lumber camps,'—the scene of the timber industry. The Maoris of New Zealand, the Red Indians of North-West Canada assembled to do honour to the King's son and his wife, as the Malay Rajas had done in the East.

On their return the Prince and Princess of Wales (as they had now become) were welcomed by the Lord Mayor of London at a banquet at the Guildhall, at which the Prince made a most memorable speech, recounting the impressions of the six months' tour. We still remember the burden of that speech: 'Wake up, England.'

In the autumn of 1905 the Prince and Princess of Wales paid a state visit to India that lasted several months. They visited each province and several of the principal native states, saw the outposts of Empire, the Khyber Pass and the frontier stronghold of Quetta, as well as the ancient Imperial city of Delhi, Lahore, Agra, and other centres of the great river plains. They travelled on to Calcutta and Burma, then south to Mysore and Haiderabad, and everywhere their tour was marked by the traditional splendour of the East.

Since then the King has once more visited

Canada, and reviewed the Canadian troops at the Tercentenary Festival at Quebec.

And in the years spent at home our present King and Queen devote themselves largely to the work of social benevolence and the promotion of the general welfare. By the death of our late beloved King, Edward VII, in May 1910, George, Prince of Wales, became George V, King and Emperor. In him, as in his predecessor, we have a monarch worthy of his kingdom. Throughout the Empire to-day, as in centuries past, and, as we trust, for many yet to come, the prayer goes up from loyal hearts: 'God Save the King.'

CHAPTER II

THE EMPIRE

The British Empire—the greatest the world has ever seen—comprises more than a fifth of the habitable globe, and its subjects number twenty-two per cent. of the entire human race. It is well to consider the causes which, under God's providence, have led to this dominance of the British race. A temperate climate and a fertile soil, such as the British Isles possess, tends to produce a strong and prolific people, and their island home with its long stretches of indented coasts made of those people, perforce, a nation of sailors. History has proved again and again, that maritime supremacy is the essential condition of Empire; from the time of the Phœnicians onwards, the nation that has held sea-power has dominated the world. For 'Whosoever commands the sea, commands the trade; whosoever commands the trade of the world, commands the riches of the

world, and consequently the world itself,' says Sir Walter Raleigh. The Greeks, Romans, Scandinavians, Spaniards, Dutch, and French have held this power in turn, and, losing it, have also lost the means of national expansion. Great Britain had to fight most of the great European Powers at sea to maintain her independence, or indeed her existence as a nation; thus by degrees has she achieved that naval supremacy firmly held for over a century. To-day, more than ever, it is vitally necessary to her to keep that supremacy for the defence of her vast and scattered domains, and also to secure the food supply of the population at home, six-sevenths of which now comes from overseas.

The rise of Great Britain to her present position, and the building-up of the Constitution, that has served as a model to all civilised nations, has been the work of twelve centuries or more. We may briefly trace the outline of that development by noting the fusion of the Saxon, Scandinavian, and Celtic races, in all of whom the love of liberty and sense of justice were characteristic. The primitive government of the Saxon kings in council with their 'wise men' gave place under the Normans to the feudal system by which land

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, LONDON.

was held under the Sovereign by the nobles, under the nobles by esquires, under them again by the farmers, not for rents in money, but in return for personal military service. This system was well suited as a means of mutual defence to the rude Middle Ages, but was replaced as civilisation advanced, by more organised government. Service in the defensive forces came to be separate professions, the administration of the laws passed from the hands of the King and the nobles into those of judicial courts. The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries opened the New World to European conquest, and perpetual wars transferred the balance of power continually. Under Queen Elizabeth Britain took a prominent place among the powers of Europe, and the names of Hawkins and Drake, Frobisher and Raleigh sprung into fame, as she began to colonise in North America. Under the Stuarts our first colony was planted, and Newfoundland is the oldest of all our Overseas possessions. Later some of the West Indian Islands were added to the British domain, and a footing was made in India and in Africa. The eighteenth century brought still further changes and expansion. During the second half of it, Canada was taken from the French,

part of Australia discovered and annexed, the United States lost, a great part of India gained, and the British flag hoisted in New Zealand.

Then once more the British nation had to fight for life against the power of Napoleon. With his defeat Britain became the foremost nation on earth.

After the stress of war came the triumphs of peace. During the nineteenth century the discovery of steam-power and the invention of machinery that ensued revolutionised the world of industry. Great Britain was in the van of progress. She possessed her own unlimited supply of coal and iron. She possessed the national spirit of enterprise and soon became the workshop of the world. It is difficult to realise the enormous change that has come about within seventy years through this industrial development. Up to 1845 three-quarters of the population of the British Isles were engaged in agricultural pursuits; to-day, although the population has increased by some ten million, only some eight per cent. are engaged in agriculture.

Great cities have grown up, such as Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Glasgow, Belfast, and Manchester, each providing employment in their respective

manufactures of woollen, steel, linen, and other goods for hundreds of thousands of men and women. Conditions of life have altered, some for better, some for worse; with higher wages have come higher standards of living. The facilities of transport provided by steam bring all the world's produce into one market, supplies are vastly increased, but so also is competition. The price of wheat in England is ruled by the price of wheat in the Argentine, India, or Canada; the machinery made in Birmingham, the cotton goods of Lancashire have to meet the cheaper products of America and the Continent. For though Great Britain for a time held almost a monopoly of manufactures, it was not to be expected that she would keep it. For nearly thirty years she was easily first, now she ranks third among manufacturing nations. With the development of industry came compulsory education—it is the exception now to find one who cannot read and write in this country.

The wide extension of the franchise places an enormous power in the hands of the people, not only over their home affairs, but over the destinies of the subject races in India, the Crown Colonies, and the future of the Empire.

Much has been contributed to laying solid foundations of Empire by the British law of primogeniture. It has always been the custom in this country for the eldest son of a family to inherit his father's property, title, or business, as the case may be, and for the younger brothers to seek a living for themselves, very often abroad. Thus there has been a continual stream to the colonies of the best blood of the nation, men of good physique, of education and training, who carry abroad the finest traditions of the race. We have ruled our colonies with picked men.

The importance of this applies especially to the Asiatic and tropical parts of the Empire, where alien races have to be ruled in their own interests as well as in our own. During the reign of Queen Victoria our Eastern possessions were greatly extended, and it fell to Great Britain, as a national duty, to establish order in the demoralised region of Egypt and the Sudan. If these countries are to be preserved, not merely for the glory of the British Empire, but for their own well-being, the standards of government that we ourselves have set up must be maintained, unswayed by popular prejudice or party interests.

In this reign also New Zealand, South Africa,

and the Protectorates of East Africa were added to the Empire. The great self-governing Dominions have now grown into sister-nations, each with its own Parliament, with an elected House of Representatives, and a chosen Senate that corresponds somewhat to the House of Lords. A Governor-General represents the Sovereign, and, as we have already seen, the Crown is the only material link of Empire. Let us then glance across the Overseas Dominions which are thus linked to us. They may be divided for description as follows :—

The Mother Country, the United Kingdom, something of whose history we have touched on.

The Self-governing Dominions, Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa.

The Empire of India.

The Crown Colonies, administered by permanent officials.

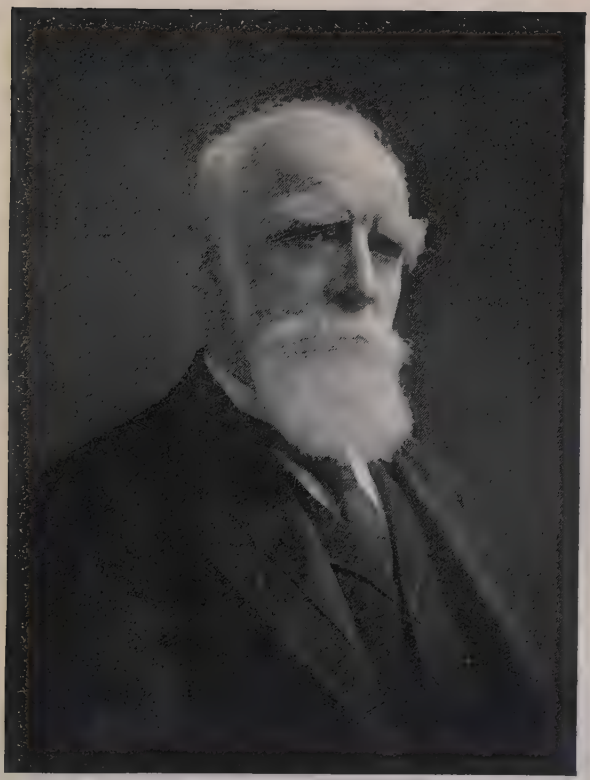
The Protectorates, partially administered in the same way, but where native rulers retain their position subject to British suzerainty.

Dependencies or Outposts of Empire.

CHAPTER III

CANADA

The Dominion of Canada, with the Colony of Newfoundland, is the largest and the oldest of the Overseas Dominions. About the time that British colonies were founded in what is now the United States, the French settled further north at the mouth of the St. Lawrence river, and westward along its banks. They peopled this fertile and pleasant country chiefly with farmers and their families from Normandy and Brittany, whose descendants still form the greater part of the population of the Province of Quebec. During the eighteenth century, the struggle for supremacy between France and England was fought out all over the world, and in Canada, as in India, the French possessions overseas were wrested from them by the British. The famous siege and capture of the fortress of Quebec by Wolfe in 1759 decided the contest for the French provinces; Nova Scotia



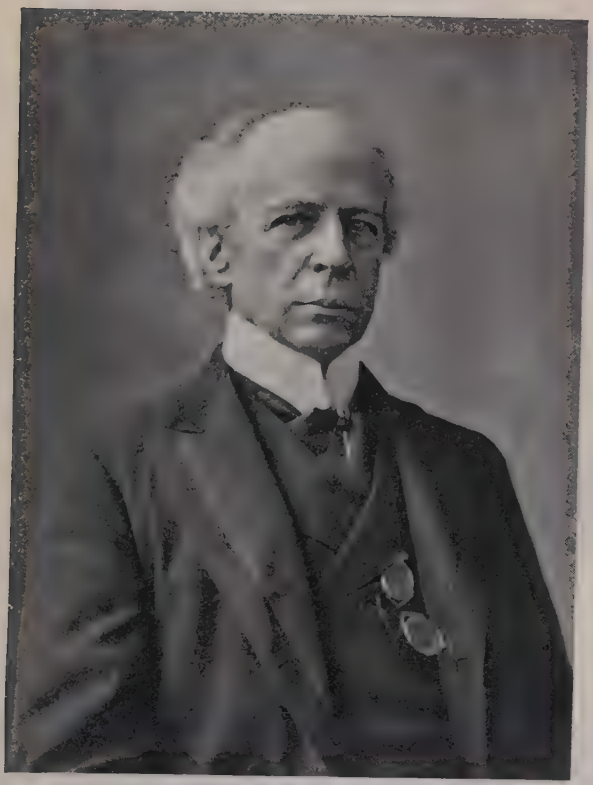
LORD STRATHCONA,
High Commissioner for Canada.

Photo by Lafayette, Ltd.

—colonised as its name betokens by Scotsmen—had already been ceded to Britain in 1713. Newfoundland is the oldest of our North American possessions.

The north-west portion of the continent was almost unknown in those days, but was gradually opened up by the Hudson Bay Company, which obtained large concessions of territory, a part of which, British Columbia, was created a separate Crown Colony in 1858, to which Vancouver was added later. Progress was rapid in the New World, and in 1867 the different provinces of Canada were united in one Dominion, with its own independent Government, which now includes the whole extent of the northern part of North America (excepting Newfoundland, Alaska, and the little islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon), stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, from the chain of great lakes that forms part of the boundary of the United States to the frozen shores of the Arctic, with an area nearly equal to that of Europe. It is a country of boundless natural wealth in timber, in minerals, and above all in the fertility of the soil. The wheat-belt of Western Canada is slowly becoming the granary of the Empire. Thousands of square miles of prairie land in the provinces

of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta are now under cultivation, and last year exported to the United Kingdom alone wheat to the value of just over seven million sterling, besides flour worth over one and a half million. The Canadian Department of Agriculture has encouraged the wheat-growing industry in such a way as to materially assist its development. In the first instance the Canadian Government does everything to encourage a good class of settlers; 160 acres of land are granted free to any man who satisfies the few and simple conditions required. If he does not cultivate his land he forfeits it. Where labour is scarce, machinery is extensively utilised; neighbouring farms sharing steam ploughs, reaping-machines, and other labour-saving inventions until they can afford their own. When the corn is reaped it is sent to the nearest station. There the cars, three times the size of the ordinary English truck, are left to be filled, and as each train is loaded up it is sent on to Winnipeg, the capital town of the wheat-belt. There a government inspector tests the quality of the grain in each car, and assigns it to one of seven recognised 'grades.' It can then only be sold according to its declared quality. If the farmer thinks his wheat



SIR WILFRID LAURIER
Premier of Canada.

wrongly graded, he can appeal to the Winnipeg Board of Trade. But throughout the first and, in case of appeal, second inspection, it is made impossible for the official inspector to know where any particular lot of grain comes from, so that no favouritism can be exercised. The wheat is then sent to the storehouses of Fort William and Port Arthur, in the province of Ontario, corn being divided according to its grade. In the gigantic storehouses, known in Canada as 'grain-elevators,' the wheat is winnowed by electric machines, the chaff and broken wheat being separated for ultimate use as cattle food; all dirt is removed by suction, and the pure grain automatically weighed and stored in immense bins. The largest 'grain-elevator' in the world is that of the Canadian Northern Railway at Port Arthur, built to contain seven million bushels. Still only a comparatively small portion of Canada's wheat lands have yet been cultivated.

The cultivation of fruit is another great and prosperous industry. The province of Ontario is especially suited to this branch of farming and is known as 'The Garden of Canada,' a large part of this province being laid out in orchards. The system of collection, grading, and transport of the

fruit is as well-organised as the wheat industry, and with the modern developments of cold storage, Canadian peaches, grapes, and pears, as well as apples by the million bushels, find their way to the London market. Nova Scotia and British Columbia are both well suited in climate and soil to fruit farming, the present chief difficulty being the shortage of labour. It is by no means uncommon, in a good season, to find whole orchards, with trees bending under their load of fruit, left unpicked, for want of hands for the work. But every passing year finds more persons profitably engaged in this industry. The Government of Ontario has established an agricultural college, with a special department for the study of fruit culture, and much valuable work is done at the Agricultural College of Guelph. Thus the latest results of experience and scientific discovery are placed within reach of intending settlers.

Beyond the wheat-belt, in the north-west of Canada, the country is largely given up to horse and cattle farms. The shelter of the Rocky Mountains on the west protects this district from the rigours of cold that are suffered elsewhere, so that it is particularly favourable for stock-breeding.

MONTREAL

Timber is still the most important of Canada's products. In the province of Quebec alone the forest area covers over a hundred million acres, while in British Columbia the mountain slopes are covered for hundreds of miles with virgin forest. The export of timber, with its subsidiary trade in wood pulp, has been enormous, and still the uncut timber of Canada exceeds in value that of any other country in the world. Mineral products from British Columbia in the west and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the east are of considerable value; coal, gold, silver, copper, lead, and oil are among its natural treasures as yet but little drawn upon. The fishing industry of the maritime Provinces is extensive, and from this region Canada relies for sailors to man her rapidly increasing marine.

Some of the railways in Canada are in the hands of the State, an arrangement that is practically inevitable in a vast country in process of rapid development. The famous 'Canadian-Pacific' line is, however, a private enterprise. This stretches right across the Continent, from St. John, New Brunswick, on the Atlantic, to Vancouver on the Pacific, a distance of 3,383 miles, and the Company also owns a line of large steamers on both oceans. In all directions railways are being pushed

forward to tap the resources of the Dominion, and the excellent organisation of traffic has greatly contributed to the development of newly settled districts.

The entire population of Canada is still under eight million, though every year an increasing tide of immigration flows in from Europe and the United States. At present about a quarter of the inhabitants are of French-Canadian descent, the majority of the rest being Anglo-Canadian. The immigration laws of the Dominion have been framed with foresight and wisdom ; Canada is to be a white man's land,—alien races, who might endanger the purity of the race, being rigidly excluded, as are also persons suffering from diseases (such as consumption or madness) that are liable to spread by inheritance.

The political Constitution of Canada, as already noticed, is modelled on that of the Mother Country, with certain amendments to the scheme of election, such as the automatic adjustment of representation to population.

Many manufactures are, necessarily, still more or less in their infancy, and it is well for the health of the young nation that her development lies largely in agricultural and pastoral employment.

TORONTO.

The physique of the race stands to gain enormously by outdoor labour, and it is noticable in Canada, as in Australia and New Zealand, that a distinct type is already evolved—taller, thinner, and more alert than the stock from which they spring.

Education in Canada is free, but there is special protection for the rights of denominational schools. This is particularly necessary where so many of the inhabitants are Roman Catholics, and the result is most satisfactory, peace and good feeling being combined with efficiency. A delightful practice in Canadian public schools is that of keeping a holiday in the spring under the name of Arbour Day. This is the second Friday in May, and is devoted to the planting of trees and flowers in the school grounds.

So far Canada has been described as the white man's country, but we cannot omit some reference to its aboriginal inhabitants. These, now numbering about 120,000, are slightly increasing. They are the Red Indians, who once peopled the vast prairies and forests of the whole Continent, and fought so long and so hard before their conquerors. They live in districts set apart for them, and make a livelihood by fishing, trapping game, and hunting furred animals.

The Canadian army is at present only a nucleus, a very small permanent force with a larger body of trained militia. But the help afforded to the Mother Country by the Canadian contingent during the South African war is not likely to be forgotten, and at the conference of this year Imperial Defence is the leading subject for discussion. Canada's share in that defence is certain to be worthy of the Dominion and the traditions of both nations.

Humanly speaking, there is no limit to the position which Canada may attain. As Lord Milner said, in a speech at the Canadian Club at Vancouver in 1908, it may well be 'the first place in the group of sister nations that we designate the British Empire.'

CHAPTER IV

AUSTRALIA

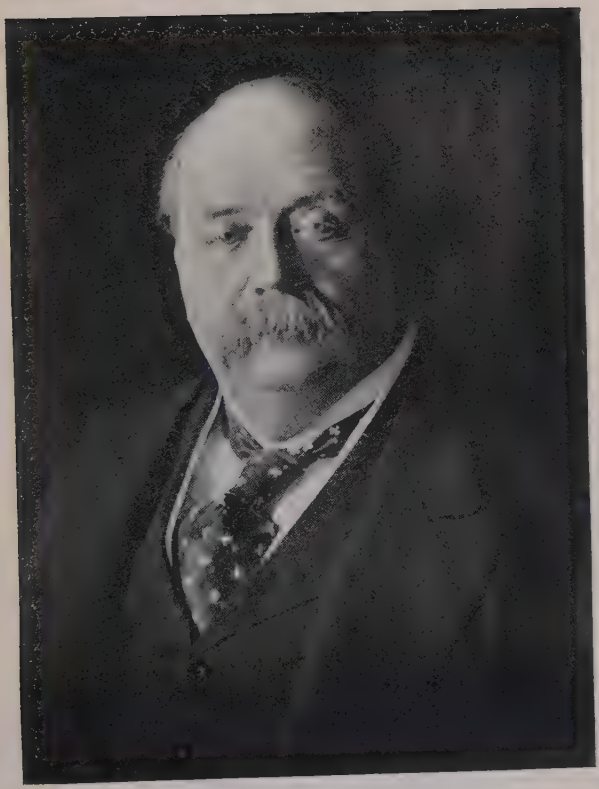
The island continent of Australia is unique in several respects. It is isolated in the midst of great oceans, and for centuries remained undiscovered. It has never been the scene of war—long may such record hold good—and has been colonised and developed by a single race. In 1605 the Spaniards sent some ships there, and named it 'Terra Australia del Espiritu Santo'—the Southern land of the Holy Spirit. They claimed the country for the Spanish Empire, but took no steps to possess it; and a little later, when the Dutch rose to be the first sea-power of the world, they annexed it under the name of New Holland. The Dutch further explored the Southern Seas, and left testimony to their wanderings in the names New Zealand, Tasmania, or, as it was first called, Van Diemen's Land. But they also failed to effect any occupation of the country, and though

Napoleon cast covetous eyes upon it, he could neither spare time nor men from his European campaigns to annex so distant a possession, and no serious opposition was ever made to its occupation by the British. Captain Cook had hoisted the Union Jack on Australian soil in 1770, and there it has flown for one hundred and forty-one years.

The early colonists had a hard struggle, for there was no local food supply, and for some years the settlements depended, almost entirely, on supplies brought by the ships. It is strange to read the report of the Governor of New South Wales scarcely a hundred years ago, throwing doubt on the value of this colony to the Mother-land since it could not even feed itself. The interior of the Continent was still unexplored and supposed to be uninhabitable desert.

Within a century Australia is exporting annually thirteen million pounds worth of food to Europe.

The first colonists, however, had brought with them a few sheep, and these did well, while the breed was improved by the importation of Spanish merino sheep. The settlers pushed inland along the rivers where pasturage was good, and from these small beginnings has sprung up the great wool industry of Australia. Australia is now the



SIR GEORGE REID,
High Commissioner for Australia.

Photo by London Stereoscopic Co.

greatest wool-producing country in the world; her total export of this product last year amounted in value to twenty-five million sterling. Not only the United Kingdom, but France, Germany, and America depend almost entirely on the Australian supply of material required for the manufacture of the finest cloth. For it is not only in quantity but in quality that Australia excels. The climate and pasturage of the great inland plains of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria are peculiarly suited to sheep, and it is found that the breeds improve. The average yield of wool from the animals brought out by the early colonists was about three and a half pounds of coarse quality; lately, as much as forty pounds of the finest wool has been obtained from picked rams. This wool supply has given a new source of wealth not only to Australia, but to the United Kingdom, for up to sixty or seventy years ago Spain had a monopoly of the supply. At the present time British exports of woollen goods represent a sum of eight and a quarter million sterling, and many times that sum in wages to people engaged in their manufacture, so that the importance of having the supply of raw material within the Empire can hardly be over-estimated. It is interesting to trace the

development of sheep-farming in the Commonwealth. At first land was to be had free; the 'squatters' turned out their flocks to feed as they pleased on the unlimited pastures, and very little attention was required for them except in the shearing and lambing seasons. Shearing soon became a distinct trade; gangs of shearers, starting from the north of the colonies, would work their way southwards, visiting the different farms or stations to shear for the squatters. For many years the shearing was all done by hand, and a first-rate shearer would clip a hundred fleeces in a day. Now the shearing is done by machinery, but expert shearers are still required for the work, and 'shearing strikes' may do as much to dislocate the wool trade as a drought in which thousands of sheep perish.

Drought is the one great danger to be faced in Australia. Artesian wells, dams, and extensive irrigation do much now to combat this. In other respects the squatter's path was an easy one compared to that of pioneers in other lands. He found no jungle to be cleared, no wild animals, no fierce natives—only the lack of water barred his way, and that difficulty has been largely overcome.

CITY OF BRISBANE
(QUEENSLAND).

Besides the value of the wool, sheep-farming now yields a large return in meat, tallow, and skins. In the old days, before the means of freezing meat for export had been invented, sheep sold for killing and boiling down for tallow fetched only sixpence to one shilling in New South Wales. Now the trade in frozen meat is enormous, and provides an ample and cheap supply of excellent food to the over-populated countries of the Old World. Immense numbers of cattle are raised in the same way on the inland plains, and Australian horses are famous all over the world. Horse-breeding is a great feature of Australian life, and has been the subject of many books of colonial adventure, from Henry Kingsley's time till to-day. India and all the Eastern Crown Colonies, and indeed most of Southern Asia, import Australian horses in large numbers.

The discovery of gold in 1851, first at Bathurst, and then at Ballarat and Bendigo, in Victoria, attracted a rush of immigrants. 'Gold-fever' prevailed to an amazing extent, but many of the new arrivals found that a better livelihood was to be had in farming than in mining, and a considerable impetus was given to further settlements in the interior. Explorers set out to survey the unknown

parts of the country, some, such as Burke and Wills, sacrificing their lives in this.

During the latter half of the nineteenth century the separate States grew in population. Tasmania was given self-government in 1842, and at the close of the century there were in Australia six self-governing colonies—Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania. With six different postal and telegraphic systems, six hostile tariffs and six defence forces within the island-continent, impossible situations arose, and the idea of union grew with the passing years.

In 1900 a Constitution was agreed on that met with the approval of the six States and received the assent of Queen Victoria. Union has indeed proved strength in this instance; in such matters of general interest as national defence, customs' duties, postal service, the Federal Government of the Commonwealth legislates for the whole Continent, while in local affairs each State remains still a sovereign State and attends to its own affairs. The Governor-General and the Governors of the separate States, each in his place representing the King, are nominated by the Sovereign, otherwise all appointments are in the hands of the Ministry of the Commonwealth.

MELBOURNE, COLLINS STREET
(VICTORIA).

Agriculture has greatly increased of late years, wheat and other cereals being exported in large quantities, and fruit-growing, especially in Victoria and Tasmania, is as flourishing an industry as in Canada. The island State sends half a million cases of apples every year to England alone. Dairying is also a rapidly increasing industry. In 1891 some four million pounds of butter were sent to England, in 1906 the export was seventy-five million! The meat trade sprang up in 1882, when frozen meat was first sent home to England.

Events move rapidly in these days of electric communications, swift fleets, and gigantic armaments. Political developments in Europe, coupled with the rise of Japan as a world-power, are hastening Australia's policy of providing adequate self-defence. Australians have, from the first, devoted interest and attention to their own defensive forces, and so far back as 1898 contributed a volunteer contingent for service with the Imperial troops in Egypt. Like Canada, the Australian Commonwealth was worthily represented in the South African war.

Australia has been the first of our Overseas Dominions to adopt the system of national training for her own army and navy. From this

very year (1911) every Australian youth, who is physically fit, will be subject to periodical training, and must attend a fixed number of drills in the year.

In proportion to population, Australia is rich in able-bodied men, but the whole number of inhabitants of the great continent is less than that of London. They have wisely determined to keep their country a white man's land, free from the terrible 'colour problems' that beset America and South Africa, but to develop their territories they require a vast increase of population. Labour of all kind is very well paid, and the climate very well suited to the British race. It would be for the benefit both of the Homeland and Australia, if more of those who struggle in the crowded labour markets here, would make their living and their home in Greater Britain overseas.

At the Imperial Conference of 1909 the creation of an Australian fleet was decided on, with the object of strengthening the Empire's command of the sea and protecting Australian ports and shipping from hostile raids. Three ships are now building in the United Kingdom and will be launched ere long under the names of the *Australia*, the *Melbourne*, and the *Sydney*. A training-ship is already manned with Australian cadets.

SYDNEY, GEORGE STREET
(NEW SOUTH WALES).

Another ship is to be built in Australia herself, at the Government dockyard in Sydney harbour. The *Brisbane* ushers in a new epoch in the history of Australia, for the Commonwealth will be the first of all the Overseas Dominions which has started on this new shipbuilding enterprise. The whole Empire will echo her own watchword—'Advance Australia.'

CHAPTER V

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND is the most remote of the Dominions of the Empire, but, strangely enough, bears a curious resemblance to the Mother Country. Like her, the Dominion consists of a group of islands, two large, and many smaller ones. Although the total area is about the same, the population of New Zealand is about one million, while that of Great Britain is forty-one million. The climate is temperate, though the temperature varies much less than in the corresponding latitudes in Europe; the rainfall is plentiful, the long indented coast-line provides some of the finest natural harbours in the world, and some of the rivers are navigable for a great part of their length. The natural resources of the country, and the conditions of life there, are all very similar to those of the British Isles.

This 'Britain of the South' is, however, far more widely separated from other lands than the Old Country. Australia, her nearest neighbour, is twelve hundred miles distant, whereas in England the coast of France is visible from the Kentish shore. Like Australia, these islands in the Southern Ocean were left unoccupied by white men until comparatively late in modern history. Tasman, a Dutch naval explorer, discovered and named the islands in 1642; but no settlement was made there. Captain Cook visited them, and spent six months, from October 1769 to April 1770, surveying the two principal islands, which he formally annexed in the name of the British Crown. But it was not till 1814 that British settlers availed themselves of this new land, and on many occasions the British Government disavowed any claim to sovereignty there. By the year 1840, however, British subjects in New Zealand, traders, missionaries, and settlers from Australia, numbered 2000, and the foreign policy of France obliged the Home Government to make up its mind to the tenure of this colony: the decision to retain it was due chiefly to the insistence of the colonists themselves. In 1840 a formal treaty was drawn up with the natives—Maories—securing to them

certain revenues and privileges which they still enjoy. In May 1841 New Zealand was made a separate colony with its own Governor and Auckland as its capital. From 1841–1852 New Zealand was a Crown colony. For a little longer native affairs were under the direct control of the British Government, but these were handed over to the colony in 1863, and in 1876 the separate Provinces of the islands federated, and have ever since been governed by a General Assembly, in which, it is interesting to note, sit four native members elected by the Maories themselves. These people afford, perhaps, the only instance of a native race living on terms of anything approaching equality with the white invaders of their land.

The colonisation of the country was largely effected by the New Zealand Company, an admirably organised and public-spirited body of men. 'The aim of this Company,' wrote the Directors in 1847, 'is not confined to mere emigration, but is directed to colonisation in . . . systematic form. Its object is to transplant English society with its various gradations in due proportions, carrying out our laws, customs, associations, habits, manners, feelings—everything of England, in short, but the soil.' And so we find the various Provinces

SIR JOSEPH WARD,
Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Photo by Reginald Haines

peopled with distinct groups. Otago in the South Island was settled under the auspices of the Free Church of Scotland, and proclaims its origin in such names as Stewart Island, Dunedin, Hamilton, and Invercargill. The province of Canterbury, in the centre of South Island, was filled with English settlers, so orthodox, in the first instance, that they would admit none but members of the Church of England. Time has softened any ancestral rivalries between the Provinces, but the scrupulous care exercised sixty or seventy years ago to plant the land with men of good character, sound health, intelligence, and energy has borne abundant fruit in the present generation. New Zealand was exceptionally fortunate, also, in the men chosen to carry out the provincial government. These were men of good birth and University training, whose names are still revered in the Britain of the South, and whose disinterested labours for the colony were a leading cause of its steady advance and prosperity.

The early settlers found great tracts of country covered with primeval forest, in which some of the finest timber for ship-building and other purposes was plentiful. But since land for both cultivation and grazing was essential for the

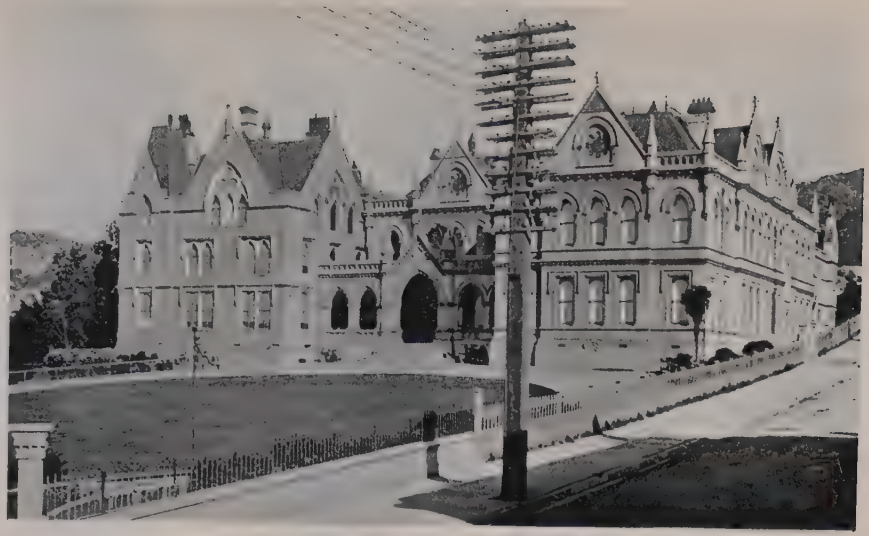
settler, miles of valuable forest were burned down to clear the ground. Later, an extensive trade in timber sprang up, and New Zealand wood, such as that of the 'kauri' pine, cedar, and silver pine, came increasingly into demand. From 1876 to 1887, twenty-five million feet of valuable timber was exported, until danger arose of a total destruction of the forests. In consequence it was necessary to reserve the forests on Crown lands and restrict timber-cutting concessions, and now, with an abundant supply to the saw-mills of the Dominion, an immense reserve still exists, replenished by systematic planting. The timber industry is carried on mostly in the province of Auckland. The trees, felled on the mountain slopes, are lashed together into great rafts and floated down the rivers to the saw-mills, where machinery of the latest invention strips off the bark and saws the timber. The last detailed accounts of the industry, 1907, give a return of 411 saw-mills in New Zealand, employing over 7000 men, and producing over 500 million feet of timber in the year.

Cultivation of the native flax, from which hempen rope and twine is made, has been from the first an extensive industry, and is now a serious

competitor of the fibre of the Philippine Islands. Coal and gold-mining are both profitable, but the main wealth of New Zealand lies in farming. The breeding of sheep and cattle plays a large part in the industries of the country. The wool trade is extensive and increasing. Perhaps the branch of farming in which New Zealand has come to the front most rapidly is dairying, and her cheese and butter find a ready market in the homelands.

The climate of New Zealand is particularly favourable for pasturage, and so far back as 1881 the New Zealand Government set to work to improve the then rather low standard of butter and cheese-making. They studied the Danish method of co-operation, and established butter and cheese factories, in which machinery saved time and labour, and the utmost cleanliness was ensured. Nowadays every district has its butter factory, with outlying creamery stations. The farmers bring in their milk in the early morning to their nearest station, which is a meeting-place for the neighbourhood. A sample is taken from each can, by which to fix the price, and the measured milk is poured into vats, from which it passes through heating vessels to the separators. In this way, the milk and cream can pass off in divergent streams, and the

waiting farmers fill their cans with skim milk for feeding their pigs and calves. The cream is directed into its own vat for the next day's churning. A large butter factory draws its supply from perhaps twenty creamery stations, over an area of thirty miles. By rail or road the day's supply is sent to the factory in the cool of the evening, and the cream is then passed over coolers into the ripening vat. Next morning the churning, by steam-driven machines, begins in vats each holding 160 gallons of cream. In half an hour the buttermilk separates and is drawn off, leaving 800 pounds of pure butter, fresh and yellow like corn. In the whole process it is never touched by hand. It is left for twelve hours in the chilling room, packed next morning in the half-hundredweight boxes in which it is exported, and sent by night to specially built stores at the ports. Before export, sample boxes are opened at random, the butter tested, and the produce of the factory from which it comes 'graded' accordingly, on the same principle as the Canadian wheat. Cheese is made and exported in the same way. From the refrigerating chamber of the storehouse, kept at twenty degrees below freezing-point, the butter and cheese are removed into similar cold storage chambers in the



WELLINGTON
(NEW ZEALAND).

ships. Steamers leaving New Zealand during the season of dairy export may carry as much as a thousand tons of butter for sale in London, arriving there six weeks later in perfect condition.

As population increased, and with it the demand for land, the tendency of the land laws has been to divide the extensive concession of early days into smaller, more compact holdings. The problem of land tenure, and the use of the land to the greatest advantage, is far less complicated in a new country than in an old one. A large extent of Crown land is set aside, never to be sold, but its rents devoted, in perpetuity, to the payment of Old Age Pensions. Labour has been, and still remains, the principal difficulty of the community, but the growing spirit of nationality will no doubt overcome this, as it has overcome the difficulties of the past. The defence of the country is a subject in which New Zealanders are keenly interested. No British garrison has been stationed in the country since the close of the Maori wars in 1870, and the presence of a few British men-of-war has been sufficient in time of general peace. But in the last few years the political aspect has changed, and New Zealand is alive to the necessity of possessing an adequate defence. Since 1887 the country has made a

considerable contribution to the Imperial navy. In 1907 she became a Dominion, and in 1909, at a moment of anxiety in Europe, cabled an offer to present one or, if necessary, two *Dreadnoughts*, as soon as they could be built. The moral effect of this, and of Australia's similar generosity, relieved the tension of politics at home, and it also led to the New Zealand Defence Act of 1909, by which national training is adopted for all young men of the Dominion between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five. The naval subsidy is also considerably increased. Never can the Empire forget how, at the time of the South African war, New Zealand raised and equipped a body of 7000 mounted troops for active service out of a population considerably under a million.

To quote a distinguished New Zealand statesman: 'The industry of seventy years has multiplied a handful of pioneers, living on their capital and their hopes, into a young nation of a million souls, with an oversea trade of thirty-six million sterling. The three or four makeshift villages of 1840 are now represented by four substantial cities and a score of thriving little towns. Statesmanship, military courage, capacity for social organisation,

have all had their share in making progress possible; but the chief factor in the advancement of a mainly peaceful community has been steady and intelligent industry.'

In the life of the young nations lies the future of the British race.

CHAPTER VI

SOUTH AFRICA

THE fourth and youngest of our great self-governing dominions is South Africa, though her history stretches further back than any of the other three. This country was discovered by Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, in the year 1497. He sailed round the 'Cape of Good Hope,' already found by Bartholomew Diaz, and the territory on the coast to the north-east of this Cape he named Natal, because he landed there on Christmas Day. Portugal nominally annexed the whole of South Africa, but never occupied more than the small settlements on the coasts which she still retains, notably Lorenzo Marques and Beira on the east. In the seventeenth century the Dutch established a colony at the Cape. A small band of emigrants was brought out from Holland, and in spite of many hardships made permanent

homes in South Africa. The little colony went through many vicissitudes; in 1781 it was seized by the French, in 1795 it was occupied by the British, in 1803 it was restored to the Dutch. Meanwhile a sprinkling of British settlers had taken up their abode in the country, and the exigencies of war again obliged Britain to occupy the Cape. In those days, before the Suez Canal was cut, or even the overland route from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea generally used, the Cape was a position of great importance as the main port on the way to India. Sailing ships depended on renewing their supply of food and water at the Cape, hence the necessity of holding South Africa, if India was to be defended.

The descendants of the early Dutch colonists keenly resented the immigration of other white people, and as the British increased in numbers the Dutch moved further and further inland, until, in 1836, they made 'The Great Trek,' a journey northwards across the Vaal river. They called their new territory the 'Transvaal,' The district they occupied south of the Vaal, to the north of Cape Colony, was known as the 'Orange Free State,' on the borders of which lay the little independent kingdom of the Basutos.

In 1844 Natal was annexed and proclaimed a British colony. Zululand was added to Natal until she had completely doubled her area, and is now about the size of Ireland.

The history of South Africa from 1840 to 1881 is a sad record. The policy of successive British Governments was inconsistent. The predominant desire of politicians in England was to shake off responsibility, and let all colonies shift for themselves. Accordingly the independence of the Republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State was speedily acknowledged; the latter State was annexed for a few years, then given back again. Much discontent, too, arose among the British colonists. But through all difficulties at home and in the colony, the steady course pursued by the Imperially-minded among the colonists had its eventual reward. Basutoland and Griqualand West were annexed in 1871, the latter on account of the discovery of diamonds. In the same year gold was discovered in the Transvaal, and the double source of wealth brought a rush of immigration from all parts of the world. Then trouble arose between the Dutch and the new arrivals, and also between the Dutch and the natives. The Zulus, a fine, warlike race, made

GENERAL BOTHA.
Premier of South Africa.

Photo by Lafayette, Ltd.

incessant war on their white neighbours, and eventually the British had to take upon themselves the burdens of the conflict. British troops were sent out to fight the Zulus, and with them went the young French Prince Imperial, who was killed during this war. A section of the Transvaal people wished to live under the protection of the British flag, but the majority did not, and further war ensued, which ended in the retrocession of the Transvaal. For the next eighteen years the struggle for supremacy between the two dominant white races in South Africa continued, and grew more acute, till it culminated in the South African war of 1899–1902. For a time the Constitution of the country was necessarily suspended, but self-government was shortly restored, and in 1910 the four States, Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Transvaal, and the Orange River, were federated into the Union of South Africa. The State of Rhodesia and the Protectorates of Basutoland and Bechuanaland are not yet included in the Union. The former territory, administered by the British South Africa Company, was added to the Empire by Cecil Rhodes, whose name is inseparable from the history of South Africa.

Cecil Rhodes was the son of a country clergyman,

and was sent in 1870, at the age of 17, on a voyage to the Cape for his health, tried cotton-planting and diamond mining, and gained the experience of the country that afterwards enabled him to take a prominent part in its government. From 1881 onwards he was a leader of the Imperial party in South Africa, and devoted much of the fortune he had made in the Kimberley mines to effect his great object of consolidating a new domain for the British Empire. He was for some years Premier of Cape Colony, and it was he who formed the Chartered Company and acquired the vast region of Rhodesia. He led the column sent to repress the Matabele revolt, and on his death, in the prime of life, bequeathed the bulk of his large fortune in the founding of scholarships at Oxford for the youth of the sister nations of the Empire as well as America and Germany.

South Africa, with Rhodesia, covers an area, roughly speaking, of the same size as India, and, naturally, a great variety in climate and conditions is found within its borders. In the south there is a great tableland that supports countless herds of sheep, cattle, and horses. Here, too, ostrich-farming is carried on, feathers being exported to the value of over one and a half

million sterling. The Province of Natal has a semi-tropical climate; its ranges of mountains are covered with dense forest, and such crops as sugar, coffee, ginger, and pepper are cultivated in the fertile coast region. Further north, in the Transvaal, the country is again a vast plateau, less suited than the other States to agriculture, but rich in minerals. Rhodesia, to the north-west, is well suited to be a white man's country, and farming is the main occupation of its settlers. Railways have been pushed forward all through South Africa, and have greatly assisted its development. These, for the most part, are the property of the Union Government, and the 'Cape to Cairo' line, designed by Cecil Rhodes, already links the extreme south with Bulawayo and Salisbury in Rhodesia and the Victoria Falls on the Zambesi River, and before long will be open as far as Lake Tanganyika in the heart of Africa.

Throughout the country the interests of Boer and Briton are now united under one flag and one King, and in the peaceful development of its vast natural resources there lies a great future for its nation.

CHAPTER VII

THE INDIAN EMPIRE

This 'Empire within an Empire' is larger than Europe without Russia and has a population seven times as great as that of the United Kingdom. This comprises the Provinces directly governed by the British and the territories of native Princes who hold their lands under the suzerainty of the Sovereign, while on the frontiers lie tracts of tribal territory and the independent States of Afghanistan, Nepal, and Bhutan, which are within the political influence, though not under the administrative rule of the Government of India.

The great Indian Empire is bounded on the north and north-west by the mountain barriers of the Hindu Kush and the Himalayas. The vast mountain range of the Himalayas affords a water-supply for the whole of Northern India; here rise the rivers of Bengal and the Punjab, fed from

the inexhaustible fields of perpetual snow. Within a comparatively short distance four great rivers rise. These are the Indus, which flows westward for eighteen hundred miles, reinforced halfway through its course by the Sutlej (of equal size) and three other rivers, whose waters unite in one great stream, and supply the province named after them Punjab (five rivers), the Brahmaputra, which flows eastward for nearly fifteen hundred miles, and the Ganges, the sacred river of Bengal. This last has a length of 1550 miles, and within eighty miles of the sea is united with the Brahmaputra, forming an immense and fertile delta such as the Nile has done in Egypt. The richest, most populous, and most historically famous part of India lies in these great river valleys.

Such is the fertility of the alluvial lands that they support a population of fifty million and yield two crops a year. Every variety of cereal can be grown there. In the north of the plains wheat, millet, maize, and barley are cultivated; in the south, rice is the staple product. Besides these there are extensive plantations of tea among the lower spurs of the mountains, while the warmer regions produce sugar, tobacco, jute, oilseeds, and spices. Among the wild animals still to be found

are tigers, leopards, hyenas, panthers, elephants, deer, and crocodiles, besides many different kinds of monkeys, snakes, and birds.

To the south this land of plenty is shut off, as securely as on the north, by another range of mountains, the Vindhya, which run almost due east from the Gulf of Cambay to the Coromandel coast.

Beyond the Bay of Bengal lies the large province of Burma, once a separate kingdom, but now included in the Indian Empire. This also is a well-watered and fertile region, yielding many of the same agricultural products as southern India, besides minerals of great value, rubies, jade, and petroleum.

Among the three hundred million of India's inhabitants to-day there is a far greater variety of race, language, and religion than can be found in Europe. No less than 147 distinct languages are spoken, and there are yet more divisions of tribe and race. The Sikhs, Pathans, and Afghans of the north-west belong to the Aryan family of the human race, and are thus much more akin to ourselves than to the Tamils of the south, or to the Burmese. In religions, Hinduism claims about seventy per cent. of the population. Twenty-one

VISCOUNT HARDINGE,
Viceroy of India.

Photo by Elliott and Fry

per cent. are Mohammedans, and three per cent. Buddhists.

India is not one country, but an Empire comprising many kingdoms, whose separate needs and interests have all to be considered, and whose bond of union is not of nationality, but of common loyalty to the protecting suzerain power.

The history of India stretches back to remotest antiquity, for the earliest civilisations of the world included one part or another of this country in their sway. The sacred books of the Hindus, written in Sanskrit, are considered by students of antiquity to date from about 1500 B.C., and these depict a state of advanced civilisation and ethics that could scarcely have been achieved in less than a thousand years. These writings are the work of an Aryan race, akin to the Medes or Assyrians, who entered India through the passes of the Hindu Kush, and conquered the valley of the Indus, which they gradually populated. From the north-west part of the peninsula they spread, in course of time, in smaller numbers, carving out separate kingdoms here and there, but leaving the inhabitants to remain as cultivators; so that in central and southern India there are still to be found the descendants of the ruling classes,

kings, soldiers, and priests, of Aryan race, while the mass of the peasantry are of quite another stock, darker, smaller, and speaking a totally different language.

We find that the Chaldeans carried on an extensive trade with India, by caravan, in the eighth century B.C., and that the products most in demand were spices, finely woven silks and woollen materials, such as cashmere, gold and precious stones, 'ivory, apes, and peacocks.' India always bore a reputation for immense natural wealth. 'The riches of the Indies' was a proverb long before the English language existed, and frequently attracted inroads from less favoured lands. Out of the cold and hungry north, predatory tribes swept down, again and again, on the fertile river valleys, settled there, and succumbed in time to the effects of an easy life and an enervating climate, till they in their turn were conquered by more virile tribes. The earlier invaders were absorbed into Hinduism, with its caste system—the most inflexible the world has ever known. The ruling caste is that of the Brahmans, the priesthood that is more than royal. The caste system, devised in the first instance, like the Jewish marriage laws, to preserve

purity of race, has been rigorously enforced throughout the centuries, and is still a factor to be reckoned with in all Indian legislation. It has, of course, kept the various tribes and clans who embraced it, apart in race and language, and explains the great diversity that is found among these.

The Mohammedan conquest of India, carried out by Afghan tribes, who forced their vanquished foes to accept their religion and fight their battles, extended from the year 999 until the end of the thirteenth century. From 1206 Mohammedan rajahs reigned at Delhi, and exercised a nominal sovereignty over the greater part of the peninsula, but it was not until 1294 that the Mohammedan armies penetrated to the Deccan. In the following century India was again invaded from the north by the famous Timur or Tamerlane, who founded the Mogul Empire. About 150 years later, his descendant, Baber, overthrew the last of the former Mohammedan dynasty (the Afghan kings) and seated himself on the throne of Delhi. At his death the Mogul Empire extended from the Oxus river in Central Asia to the mouth of the Ganges. But war for possession of these coveted territories never ceased, and the chronicles of five centuries contain one long record of invasion,

ravage, conquest and re-conquest of the land. Comparative peace occurred under a strong ruler, such as Akbar, who reigned from 1556 to 1605. He extended his kingdom over all India north of the Nerbuddha, and forced the lesser kingdoms of the Deccan to pay tribute. He even found time to effect sorely needed reforms in finance. His successor, Jehangir, received the ambassador of James I, and from this time forward we have to consider the influence of Europe and European politics on the history of India. Already for over one hundred years Venetian and Portuguese traders had carried on a flourishing commerce with India, and the latter obtained a footing at Goa, which they fortified.

The right to trade with India was jealously monopolised by them, but the Dutch, after successfully revolting against Spanish rule in the Low Countries, attacked and defeated the Portuguese in India and replaced them. The English, at the same time rising into prominence as a seafaring power, desired a share in the riches of the East, and in the year 1600 Queen Elizabeth granted a charter to the East India Company. In 1662 the island of Bombay became an appanage of the British Crown, as part of the dowry of

Charles II's Queen, Catherine of Portugal. Meanwhile, under Shah Jehan (1627 to 1658), the Mogul Empire reached the height of its splendour, and many of the beautiful buildings, such as the Taj Mahal at Agra, still to be seen, date from this period. Shah Jehan's son, Aurang-zeb, maintained his position, but under him the decline of the Mogul Empire set in. The Moguls largely employed the Mahrattas, a fierce and warlike people, as mercenary troops.

As the central power at Delhi weakened, these chiefs revolted, and became independent. Thus the States of Gwalior under the Sindhia family, Indore under Holkar, Baroda under the Gaekwar, and others were formed during the eighteenth century, and became known and feared as the Mahratta Confederacy. The Punjab, towards the close of the century, revolted against its Mohammedan governors, and formed the Sikh kingdom under Ranjit Singh. Thus when English and French traders came in increasing numbers, bent on securing concessions of territory, they found the country torn by contending factions, ravaged by war and resulting famines. France at first was the dominating white power among the trading companies. These companies were empowered by

their respective governments to make war or peace and their own treaties of commerce with the natives and each other, but had no European military support. They collected, however, many adventurous spirits, and enlisted and trained their native levies. They also fortified and gradually extended the small concessions of land obtained by purchase or agreement on the coast. The little settlement called Fort St. George, on the east coast, became the British headquarters, and developed into the town of Madras. Bombay, leased by the Crown to the East India Company for 10*l.* a year, was soon an important centre of commerce. The rivalry between the English and French Companies turned to open war, and Madras was captured by the French commandant, Dupleix, in 1746. But the British reverses were soon retrieved by Clive, whose brilliant genius did wonders with the scanty resources at his command. His victories were followed up by the defeat of the French ships sent to reinforce Dupleix, and the capture of Pondichery, the principal French settlement, completed the ruin of the French in India.

Several of the native Princes had been drawn into the war, and their troops were frequently drilled and led by French officers. Tippu, Rajah

of Mysore, and, later, two of the principal chiefs of the Mahratta Confederacy engaged in hostilities with the British, so that the struggle for supremacy lasted more than fifty years, carried on by Clive, who was the first Governor of Bengal, his successor Warren Hastings (1772–1785), who was the first great administrator of our Indian possessions, Lord Cornwallis (1786–1793), and the Marquess Wellesley (1798–1805). Since 1805 no European power has threatened our Indian Empire, but internecine wars of the native Princes have obliged the paramount power to intervene, and sometimes to annex the territory in dispute. The necessity also of a defensible frontier has driven us on to extend our dominion to the hills on the north, just as the Romans did long ago.

During the first part of the nineteenth century very few white troops were kept in India, but the East India Company employed its own small standing army, chiefly composed of natives, with English officers. The Company's civil servants carried on the trade of the country as well as its administration. This state of affairs lasted until the mutiny of the sepoy troops in 1857. Disaffection spread through the whole army of Bengal, while Delhi, the historical seat of government, was

for a short time held by the mutineers. The Sikhs and a few Mohammedans, however, remained faithful, and the rising was crushed before the end of the year. After peace was restored, the Indian dominions were transferred to the Crown of Britain, and the Empire has ever since been administered by a Viceroy in Council. The Council consists of the Commander-in-Chief of India and six chosen members of the Civil Service, the Secretary of State for India in England being the ultimate authority under the King. Each province has a Lieutenant-Governor with his own legislative Council; these provinces are: Madras, Bombay, Bengal, Eastern Bengal and Assam, the United Provinces, the Punjab, and Burma. The business of the country is divided into separate departments for Finance, Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Legislative, Revenue and Agriculture, Public Works, Commerce and Industry, Railway, Army, and Education, each being in charge of a secretary to the Government and a member of the Supreme Council. The provinces are divided into smaller Local Governments, and again into districts. The whole fabric of administration depends, in the end, on the officers personally entrusted with the task of administration, and of these as a body the Empire

may indeed be proud. The first Viceroy of India proclaimed Queen Victoria as ruler of India at a great durbar in 1858. Nineteen years later she was proclaimed Empress of India, while her son, Edward VII, in 1901 became the first King-Emperor of the great Indian Empire, which he had visited in person. George V knows his Empire still better, and he has chosen to visit India early in 1912 to attend the great Coronation Durbar.

In the words of Lord Cromer: 'For the last fifty years, although errors of judgment may possibly be imputed to the rulers of India, more especially in the direction of a somewhat reckless adaptation of Western ideas to Eastern requirements, not a word of reproach can be breathed against the spirit which has animated their rule . . . the uprightness, the benevolence, and the sincerity of the rulers of India has been fully recognised by the wisest and most statesmanlike of the indigenous races.' He refers to an address by Sir Syud Ahmed, founder of the Mohammedan College at Alighur, to the students, in which was said: 'Be not unjust to that nation which is ruling over you, and think also on this, how upright is her rule. Of such benevolence as the English Government shows to the foreign nations

under her there is no example in the history of the world.' Sir Salar Jung, the very able Minister of the Nizam of Haiderabad, said : ' The enlightened classes in India recognise that the rule of England has secured us against incessant strife, involving a perpetual exhaustion of the resources of our communities, and also that by a just administration of equal laws, a very sufficient measure of individual liberty is now our birthright.'

Speaking of the junior members of the civil and military services in the East, Lord Cromer says : ' Nothing struck me more than the manner in which young men fresh from some British military college or university were able to identify themselves with the interests of the subject races, and thus to govern them by sheer weight of character and without the use of force. . . . They constitute, in my opinion, the flower of the youth of England. No other nation possesses Imperial agents to compare with them.'

Trade with India is one of the greatest sources of national wealth, since so many of the raw products required for manufactures in the United Kingdom are supplied by the Indian Empire, which in return takes immense quantities of manufactured articles. Thus, India exports raw cotton to the

value of nearly twenty-one million sterling, and imports cotton goods and yarn to the value of twenty-six and a quarter million per annum. She exports jute worth twenty-one million, seeds and rice over twelve million sterling each, and takes seven million pounds worth of machinery and railway material yearly. The bulk of this trade is carried on with the United Kingdom, but it is a matter of anxiety to Imperialists that every year shows a growing diversion of the Indian trade to Germany and the United States. And it also has to be remembered that India is rapidly developing her own manufactures of cotton, silk, leather and metal work, some of which already compete with those of Europe.

The Indian army, consisting of troops drawn from the finest fighting races of the country, numbers about 160,000 and constitutes a most valuable branch of the Imperial Service. On it rests in great measure the defence of the Indian Empire, since the white garrison in India is only 75,500. They have also fought the battles of the Empire in Egypt and Somaliland, and garrisoned the Mediterranean stations during the South African war, thus freeing additional white regiments for active service.

Among the material benefits conferred by the British upon India is the irrigation of the country. A vast network of canals conveys water to barren districts, averts the dangers of flood in wet seasons and of drought in dry ones, and has brought into profitable cultivation many hundred square miles of what, in old days, was desert. Railways also afford easy and swift communication that enables all the resources of the Empire to be used in time of need. But while we have thus averted the old causes of famine, war, and drought, and have checked, by the methods of modern science, the ravages of plague and cholera, we find ourselves faced, through this very beneficence, with the serious problem of over-population. In Bengal especially, the people, naturally prolific, have increased until, in parts of the Delta, the population averages 552, and sometimes rises to 900, to the square mile.

The future no man can foresee, but so long as Britain supplies such men as those who have won and governed the Indian Empire in the past, and so long as these builders of Empire are given the support of their countrymen, we may hope to say with truth of our country, as the Athenian of his, 'She grows great in the midst of toils.'

CHAPTER VIII

THE CROWN COLONIES IN ASIA

The Crown colonies are those parts of the Empire that are governed directly under the Crown by officials of the Civil Service. Each has a Governor, appointed usually for a term of five years by the Minister of State for the Colonies, and a Legislative and Executive Council nominated by the Crown, or the Governor. The Council is composed of the principal civil officials, the General in command of Imperial troops in the colony, and representatives of the unofficial white community and of the natives. In those colonies, such as most of the West Indian Islands, where there is a resident white population, a certain number of members of Council are elected, but this is not done in the Asiatic and West African possessions, where representative government is wholly unsuited to the natives, and the Englishman makes no permanent home.

In order of value and importance the Asiatic Crown colonies rank first: Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and Hong-Kong.

Ceylon, the chief Crown colony in the Empire, is an island at the extreme southern end of the Indian peninsula, with a distinct history and government of its own. It is about three-fourths the size of Ireland, and lies wholly within the tropics. The interior of the island rises to mountains of considerable height, where the heat of the climate is pleasantly modified, and tea-planting is very successful. The island is rich in minerals, more especially precious stones, which have been mined from time immemorial. As far back as the fifth century before the Christian era, Ceylon was colonised from Bengal, the new-comers being attracted by the fame of the rich mines of sapphires, rubies, and other stones. The throne of the ancient kings of Kandy (the chief native city of Ceylon), now at Windsor Castle, is set with amethysts, rubies, and white sapphires, and the treasures of the famous temple at Kandy are like those described in the 'Arabian Nights.' Ceylon, like most Eastern lands, bears trace of many conquerors. Huge stone temples, adorned with wonderful statuary and bas-reliefs, are still

to be seen as relics of bygone civilisation, and buried cities have been discovered whose history is unknown. The Portuguese and Dutch had each their short spell of power over the island, but were finally ousted in 1796 by the British. The British Government has always encouraged agriculture in Ceylon; for a time coffee planting was extensive. A malignant blight devastated the coffee plantations about twenty-seven years ago, and ruined many planters. They, however, perseveringly turned their attention to other crops, tea, spice, and pepper, and of late years rubber has been very successfully cultivated. Scientific research has discovered the causes of coffee blight, and coffee planting once more attracts enterprise and capital.

The *Straits Settlements* comprise, with the Federated Malay States, all the Malay Peninsula south of Siamese territory and the islands of Penang and Singapore. The Straits Settlements were at first placed under the Government of India, and so remained until 1867, when their growing importance, and their distance from the seat of Government at Calcutta, led to their separation as a colony. During these forty or fifty years there had been no extension of territory;

the Far East was so much closed to Europeans that the importance of Singapore, as the gate of the China Seas, was scarcely realised. The Malay Peninsula was covered with unbroken jungle, the most magnificent still to be seen in the whole world; the Malays lived along the rivers, in villages built out over the water, in a state of perpetual tribal warfare. Chinese, however, found their way in, attracted by the rich alluvial deposits of tin,—their feuds gave rise to so much disturbance that the British authorities of the neighbouring colony were obliged to interfere in the interests of peace. First Perak, then Selangor, later the smaller states of Sungei Ujong and Negri Sembilan, and then Pahang, a large state on the east coast, came under British influence. To these were added, in 1909, the States north of Pahang, Trengganu, and Kelantan. A Resident was established in each State whose duty it was to advise the native ruler with a view to good government and the maintenance of order. Gradually the Resident became the virtual ruler, with a staff of officials under him, and to-day there is little distinction between the administration of the protected Malay States and the colony proper. The climate of this region is intensely hot and damp, and

the vegetation most luxuriant. It has recently sprung into fame as a country for rubber planting. The rubber tree takes seven years to mature, and while it is growing, fruit trees that develop rapidly in that climate are planted beside them, serving the double purpose of shading the young rubber and providing an immediate return for investment. The Malays are agriculturists, sailors, and fishermen, but will not work on plantations or in the mines. Until the rise of the rubber industry, tin-mining was the principal source of revenue in the Peninsula; gold also is found in workable quantities.

The Crown colony of *Labuan Island* off the north coast of Borneo, Christmas Island, and the Cocos are under the jurisdiction of the Straits Settlements. The last named have a curious history. Two brothers named Ross, born in the Orkney Islands, sailors of the East India Company's marine, took service under Sir Stamford Raffles in Java, and were employed there as ship-builders. When Java was handed over to the Dutch, George Ross took a ship he had just completed in lieu of wages, and sailed away to sea. He discovered the Cocos Islands, a small coral group, and took possession of them. Then he made the long voyage home to the Orkneys, and

brought away all those relatives who were willing to come, and settled with them in the Cocos. The Ross family intermarried with natives, whom they converted to Christianity; the islands are still peopled with their descendants, and the rules laid down by the founder of the settlement still observed.

Another unique outpost of Empire is the kingdom of *Sarawak*, where a white Rajah rules as an absolute monarch, subject only to the suzerainty of the British Crown. In 1842 Sir James Brooke visited the north coast of Borneo for purposes of science; he was a naturalist and botanist. He found the Dyak tribes at war, and interested himself, in British fashion, in the restoration of order. He organised the forces of the tribe inhabiting the banks of the Sarawak river, and enabled them to repel invasion. After a time, the natives begged him to remain as their chief, and he accepted the offer. He enrolled the fighting men, and subdued the tribes of the neighbouring river, in order to suppress the Dyak custom of 'head-hunting.' Each tribe was bound over to join the Sarawak tribe, and refrain from this barbarous warfare. Peace and good government were gradually established, and the Rajah

brought in a few of his own countrymen to carry out the administration of the country. Among these was his nephew and successor, Sir Charles Brooke. North of Sarawak a British trading company (the North Borneo Company) has a large concession of territory, which is managed by the Company's officers, under a Governor appointed by the Colonial Office.

Hong-Kong, like the other great naval base of the Eastern Seas, is an island. It lies close to the mouth of the Canton river, off the coast of China. Its great feature is the harbour, one of the finest in the world, sheltered between the island and the mainland, with a water area of some ten square miles. Magnificent docks have been built here, capable of containing the largest ships for repair, and Hong-Kong ranks as one of the six greatest ports of the world. The British also hold a concession on the mainland, and both this and the island are strongly fortified. Hong-Kong lies far enough north to be cold in winter, in fact the changes of temperature are great. In summer the Peak, a mountain about 1700 feet high, serves as a refuge from the excessive heat of the town below. The education of the rising generation of Chinese who are British subjects has been

given a great deal of attention in Hong-Kong. Over six thousand pupils attend the public schools of the colony, and a native University has lately been established with the aid of the Government.

Britain possesses another foothold on China, *Wei-Hai-Wei*, far north, on the shore of the Yellow Sea, as well as a share in the international concession at Shanghai. The former is valuable as a naval base, the latter is an important commercial centre.

At the other extreme of our possessions in Asia, the fortress of Aden, on the Arabian coast, guards for Britain the entrance to the Red Sea, and the highway to India.

CHAPTER IX

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES AND MEDITERRANEAN FORTS

Apart from the great Dominions, the British Empire in the New World, the Western Hemisphere, includes most of the West Indian Islands, and some territory in South America. The West Indies are very numerous, ranging from the large island of *Jamaica* down to mere rocky islets unnamed and uninhabited. They were among the earliest foreign possessions of European Powers, and the history of their occupation, conquest, or exchange would fill a volume. It is sufficient to trace an outline of their history. They were soon found to be particularly suited (the Greater Antilles and Windward Islands especially) to the cultivation of sugar and tobacco, and for this purpose negro slaves were imported in large numbers. It was also the practice, during the seventeenth century, to send convicts from Europe to work on the plantations,

and numbers of the prisoners taken in Monmouth's rebellion, in James II's reign, were deported to Jamaica. This island has been in British possession since 1655. Sugar-planting and the subsidiary industry of rum-brewing flourished extensively, and many British gentry had their West Indian estates, usually managed by a younger son. After a century or more of prosperity, founded on slave-labour, came the movement in Europe and the Northern States of America for the abolition of slavery. The importation of slaves was forbidden, hence the number of negroes in the country was insufficient to work the plantations. In addition, the planters, who could support their slaves on the produce of their estates, could not afford to pay the value of that maintenance in cash, and so it happpened that many estates fell out of cultivation and planters left the islands. Some hundreds of slaves were removed to settlements in Africa—Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the Congo Free State were founded in this way—and the remaining inhabitants of the West Indian Islands were brought to poverty. It has been said of the West Indies that the eighteenth century saw their glory, the nineteenth their distress, and the twentieth already sees their revival. An Imperial

Commission sent out in 1897 to report on the best means of improving the state of the islands recommended the creation of a Department of Agriculture for these colonies, to study what crops could be most advantageously cultivated. A grant of 17,400*l.* a year has been made for this purpose, of which 5000*l.* covers the office expenses, and the remainder is devoted to experimental gardens and agricultural schools. The abolition of sugar bounties in other countries led to improved export of sugar, and the cultivation of the cane has greatly revived, while at the same time the work of the Agricultural Department has effected the extermination of blight, and improvement in the quality of the plants. It has also given instruction in the best methods of cultivating fruit, in which a great trade has sprung up since 1900 with the United States, Canada, and Europe. The mass of the people are wholly dependent on the soil for a living, so that thorough education in agricultural subjects is the best thing the Government can give them. Conferences are held from time to time on the different islands, and new experiments made in growing crops suited to each locality. The results of these investigations are shared with other tropical dependencies of the Empire, seeds and young trees being

sent from the gardens of Trinidad and Jamaica to Australia, Natal, and East Africa. The value of the scientific work of the Department may be measured by a single instance: the profit derived from the introduction of the new disease resisting sugar-cane, produced by experiments in specialisation, on one estate in Demerara, within a period of three years, was more than double the entire cost of the Department for the last twelve years.

The settlements of British Guiana and British Honduras, on the mainland of South America, have a very similar climate and history to the West Indies. Like these, they depend mainly on agriculture, sugar being the chief product, but have in addition some mineral wealth of gold and diamonds.

The opening of the Panama Canal in 1915 is expected to give a further impetus to the fortunes of these colonies, as it will afford easy communication between them and the Western States of America and Canada.

Other remote outposts of Empire are scattered among the islands of the Pacific Ocean, the Fiji group 1100 miles north of New Zealand, Papua or British New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the Tongas, Phœnix, Pitcairn, Fanning, and New

Hebrides. The first of these, the Fiji group, are fertile and healthy, the vegetation luxuriant, the chief products being sugar, copra, bananas and other fruit, and cocoa-nuts. Much the same are found in the other Pacific Islands, and increasing communication between China and Australia brings trade to these distant shores.

Near home we have yet other outposts, which are simply fortresses to guard our main trade route through the Mediterranean to India and the East. As Aden is the key to the Red Sea, so Gibraltar holds the entrance of the west gate into the landlocked Mediterranean. The Rock stands out so far from the mainland of Spain as to be almost an island, within gunshot of the opposite African shore. No vessel could pass this fortress in time of war except by leave. Gibraltar has seen many sieges, the last and most famous being that of 1779–1783, when the British General Eliott withstood the combined French and Spanish forces for three years and seven months. It has been held by Britain for two hundred and seven years.

Malta, with the little island of Gozo, lies about midway in the Mediterranean. During the Middle Ages it was the property of the Order of

the Knights of St. John, a band of Crusaders from all Christian nations. It possesses a fine harbour capable of sheltering a large fleet, and for this reason is of great value as a naval base. There is a large arsenal and important dockyard, and the whole island is very strongly fortified. The Maltese are a mixed race, descended from people of the different neighbouring countries, Greece, Spain, Italy, and the Levant. The government is in the hands of the military General, assisted by a Council that is partly official and partly elected.

Cyprus, another island in the Mediterranean, is nominally a part of the Turkish Empire, but is occupied, under a treaty, by the British. Its importance is chiefly in being a base of supply within easy distance of the Egyptian ports.

CHAPTER X

AFRICAN COLONIES AND PROTECTORATES

A LARGE portion of East and Central Africa, from the shores of the Indian Ocean to the great lakes of the interior and the borders of the Congo Free State, is protected and governed by Britain in the same manner as the colonies; but since the native chiefs are for the most part allowed to retain their position, these domains are known as Protectorates. Between 1885 and 1890 various European powers annexed territory in Equatorial Africa, and their respective claims being so arranged as to leave the least possible room for friction, Britain found herself in 1886 with the Protectorates of East Africa and Uganda.

The history of the British East Africa Company is complicated. Its constitution to-day is that of a Crown colony under the control of a Governor and Councils. More interesting is the history of Uganda, which reaches north as far as the

Sudan. When Speke and Grant first visited Uganda in 1862, they found a comparatively civilised country compared with the prevailing barbarism around. The country passed through many vicissitudes till, in 1885, a young military officer, Captain Lugard, then on leave from his regiment, was sent to Uganda and took part, with the African Lakes Company, in repressing slave-raids by Arabs from the Sudan. A few years later he accepted service with the Chartered Company of British East Africa, and from 1889 to 1891 worked hard to establish some sort of order in the country. But the expense of perpetual punitive warfare was too much for the Company, and on Christmas Day 1891 Lugard received an order to abandon Uganda. Keenly alive to the value of this land, Lugard took upon himself the responsibility of paying the native levies by private subscription, until the order could be reconsidered in the light of his information. He was aided in this public-spirited movement by some of our Christian missionaries, and a Protectorate was declared over Uganda. In 1905 it was taken over by the Colonial Office, and a staff appointed for its administration from among officers of the Colonial Civil Service.

Both the Protectorates lie within the Equatorial belt. The country is sharply divided by its natural features, and part of it—the high plateaux—is quite a white man's country. Starting from the east coast, we find first the coast plain, very hot and damp, with rich, fertile soil and extensive forest. Here rubber and cotton are cultivated. Then comes a region of barren mountain, a desert plateau, broken here and there by the fertile valleys of small rivers. Beyond this is a more extensive table-land, where the soil is good and the climate healthy, and in this part there are numbers of English settlers and their families. Nairobi, the capital of the Uganda Protectorate, is situated among the hills of this region, and in its neighbourhood are already 400 farms worked by Europeans. This table-land ends abruptly in the Great Rift Valley, an immense gorge, formed at some remote period by volcanic action, running from north to south through the high ground. Beyond this a further plateau slopes gradually down, westwards, to the level of the Great Lakes, Victoria Nyanza, Albert Nyanza, Muta Nzige, and Tanganyika. This latter portion of high ground, together with the region of the lakes, forms the province of Uganda, a distinctly tropical region that consists of

endless ridges, averaging 4000 feet above sea level—where the climate is good and the vegetables and fruit of temperate climates grow luxuriantly—intersected by swampy valleys reeking with fever and sleeping-sickness. This last disease, brought by Emin Pasha's caravans from the West Coast, ravages the native population and sometimes carries off Europeans. Wild animals are abundant in the interior; ivory, obtained from the herds of wild elephant, is the principal article of commerce, skins ranking next in value. Lions are numerous—in fact a troop of man-eating lions seriously hampered the building of the Uganda railway. Deer of all kinds abound on the high lands, and hippopotamus and crocodile in the swamps and rivers.

Nyassaland and the *Zanzibar Protectorate* are outlying territories of the British East African domain, and with these may be included the Island of Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean, with its dependencies, Rodriguez and the Seychelles Islands. These islands followed the same fate as many others, in the changing succession of world-power. Portugal, Holland, France claimed sovereignty here in turn, and again yielded place to Britain. The islands are almost entirely given

up to sugar-planting and are populated by negroes and Creoles of slave descent.

The West African Colonies are scattered along the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, from the south of Cape Verd to the mouths of the Niger. Britain possesses four strips of territory, wedged between those of other nations, Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, and Nigeria. The same description serves, more or less, for all of these. Along the coast runs a belt of low-lying ground that varies in width from a few miles to a hundred or more. This is swampy, thickly wooded, and terribly unhealthy; these colonies have cost more than any others in valuable lives. Beyond this region is another, rising from 2000 to 5000 feet above sea level, and comparatively healthy, while further inland the mountains rise to peaks of 18,000 feet. Rivers are few in West Africa, but of immense size and length, forming waterways far into the interior. In old days these territories were the centre of the slave trade. Thousands of unfortunate negroes, captured by Arab slave-hunters, were brought down from the interior and shipped from Gambia, Elmina, Accra, and Calabar to be sold in America, the West Indies, Egypt, or Turkey. As far back as the sixteenth century negroes were

obtained in this way to work the plantations of Virginia and Jamaica, and the large stone barracks built to hold slaves at the coast stations are still to be seen. This inhuman traffic was stopped by international agreement on the part of the European powers and America early in the nineteenth century, though it took many years to stamp out the practice of slave-raiding for the markets of Turkey and Egypt, and even now cases of it occasionally come to light. The high lands of the interior, such as Ashanti, to the north of the Gold Coast, and Northern Nigeria are rich in minerals and in land suited to cultivation. An extensive trade with Central Africa passes through the coast settlements, and of late years the researches of the Tropical School of Medicine have done something to mitigate the dangers of the climate.

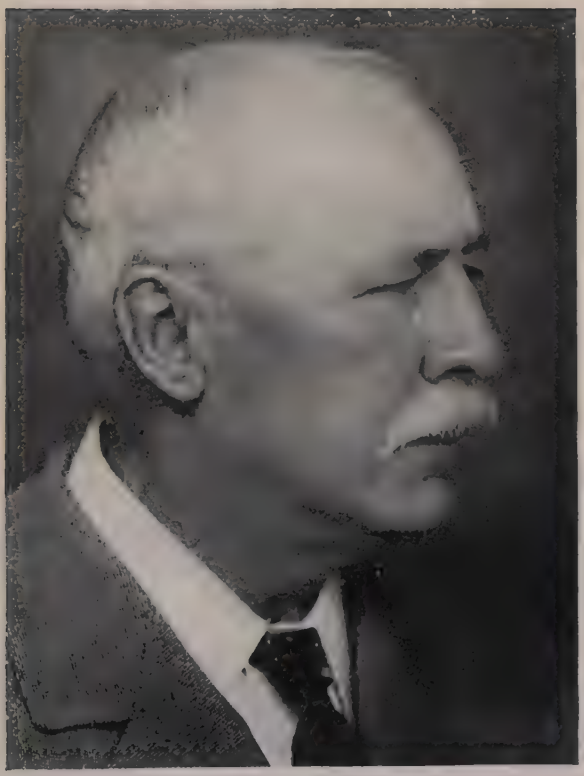
Far out in the South Atlantic the little islands of Bermuda, St. Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, and the Falkland group, once valued as ports of call on the long sea route from Europe to the East, are now retained chiefly because Britain is responsible for their up-keep. For scientific purposes they are sometimes useful—as points from which astronomical observations may be made, and

St. Helena will always be famous as having been the final prison of the great Napoleon.

Egypt is neither a Protectorate nor a British Dominion, but it is, nevertheless, under British control. It is a country rescued by British troops from devastation, a country retrieved from bankruptcy and oppression by British administration, occupied by English for nearly thirty years, but never annexed. It is one of the strangest stories in the history of a dominant race, and one of which Britain may be more worthily proud than of many achievements that have brought her more tangible reward. Since the twelfth century, when the Mohammedans conquered all lands bordering on the Mediterranean, Egypt has been subject to the Sultan of Turkey, whose representative, called the Khedive, ruled the valley of the Nile. This government had been notoriously corrupt for many generations, and the resources of Western civilisation, introduced during the nineteenth century, only added to the means of misgovernment. Large loans were raised from the various European Powers on the security of the crops, and as national credit sank, the land and its produce became heavily mortgaged at ruinous rates of interest. The failure of crops that followed on a dry season

increased the difficulty of raising revenue, and the collection of taxes was accompanied by fearful cruelty to the peasants, and much waste and corruption on the part of the Khedive and his officials.

The Powers interfered in the interests of the bond-holders in 1876, and appointed a joint mission to inquire into Egyptian finance. French and English commissioners remained in the country to advise the Egyptian Government, but the Khedive of the day, Ismail, was opposed to all reform, and it was found necessary to oblige him to abdicate, and put his more amenable son, Tewfik, in his place. But misrule was too deeply rooted to be altered quickly, and the business of reform was hampered by the fact that each one of the European Powers had to be consulted on every point, and the bond-holders of all nations pressed for the interest on the loans. In 1881 a carpenter's son, under the name of 'Mahdi' or prophet, collected a great following of fanatics and discontents and overran the Sudan. The other European Powers declined to send troops to Egypt, and it was left to the British Government to restore order. The last efforts of the Khedive, in despatching Egyptian troops under Hicks Pasha



THE EARL OF CROMER,
Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, 1883-1907.

Photo by E. G Beresford

in 1883, had failed miserably. As a final resource General Gordon was sent to the Sudan to bring away all that he could of the remaining European garrisons. He, unfortunately, remained to defend Khartoum, only to be cut off with all his followers and killed. In 1884 Sir Evelyn Baring, now the Earl of Cromer, was appointed British Agent and Consul-General, and he practically guided the destinies of Egypt till his resignation in 1907. For a time the Sudan was abandoned, but the work of reform in Lower Egypt went forward steadily. Corruption was checked, finance put on a sound basis, debt wiped out, and justice established. Irrigation works, a marvel of scientific engineering, secured an ample supply of water every year whether the Nile rose high or not, and the peasantry, released from the oppression of Turkish rule, rose to a state of unexampled prosperity. The army, properly organised and paid, drilled and led by British officers, was in the end not unworthy of the British and Indian troops who fought beside them in the re-conquest of the Sudan that took place during the years 1895–1898.

This great work was carried out, in the face of enormous difficulties, by the ability, adminis-

trative genius, and force of character of Lord Cromer and his subordinates. Egypt is now one of the most flourishing countries in the world, and so long as the wise councils that have guided it to prosperity prevail, may continue to enjoy wealth, peace, and happiness.

'Thus have we given to friends and foes all we have won for ourselves—liberty, justice, wealth—the arts and the trade of the white man; mercy and truth to the black—quiet abundance for all. This is our lesson of life, and that is the bond of our Empire.'

SHORT CHRONOLOGY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

1583	Newfoundland colonised.
1585	Attempted Colonisation in Virginia.
1600	East India Company founded.
1620	Sailing of the Mayflower.
,,	English Captains take possession of Table Bay.
1639	Madras founded.
1640	East India Company in Bengal.
1642	Tasmania and New Zealand discovered.
,,	Montreal founded.
1655	Capture of Jamaica.
1661	Bombay acquired.
1667	Cape Coast Castle under British rule.
1673	St. Helena acquired.
1690	Calcutta acquired.
1704	Capture of Gibraltar and Minorca.
1713	Acquisition of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Hudson Bay.
1759	Wolfe gains Quebec.
1762	Capture of St. Vincent and Tobago.
1763	Acquisition of Canada.
1770	Cook discovers Botany Bay and takes possession of New South Wales.
,,	British Flag hoisted in New Zealand and the Falkland Islands.
1776	American Declaration of Independence.
1786	Penang secured.
1787	Foundation of Sydney, New South Wales, and Freetown, Sierra Leone.
1795	Cape Colony taken from Dutch.
,,	Acquisition of Malacca.
1797	Trinidad taken.
1800	Baltic taken.

1802 Ceylon ceded to Britain.
1803 British Guiana and St. Lucia acquired.
1810 Mauritius taken.
1819 Singapore founded.
1823 British Flag hoisted at Mombasa.
1837 Foundation of Melbourne.
1839 New Zealand annexed. Kabul and Aden occupied.
1841 Hong-Kong ceded to Britain.
1844 Annexation of Natal.
1849 Annexation of the Punjab.
1856 Oudh annexed.
1861 Lagos annexed.
1867 Canada becomes a Dominion.
1871 Annexation of Basutoland and Griqualand West.
1874 Fiji occupied. Gold Coast Colony formed.
1876 Fingoland and Griqualand East annexed.
1877 Federation of six Malay states.
1878 Acquisition of Cyprus.
1885 Upper Burma annexed.
1887 First Colonial Conference.
1890 British Protectorate over Zanzibar.
1894 Uganda a Protectorate.
1895 Bechuanaland annexed to Cape Colony.
1896 East African Protectorate formed.
1897 Zululand added to Natal. Colonial Conference (2).
1898 Acquisition of Wei-Hai-Wei.
1899 Rhodesia organised under Charter.
1900 Nigeria formed into two Protectorates.
,, Transvaal and Orange River Colony annexed.
,, Tonga Islands under British protection.
1901 Annexation of Ashanti.
1902 Colonial Conference (3).
1907 New Zealand a Commonwealth. Imperial Conference.
1910 South Africa a Union.
1911 Imperial Conference.

THE END

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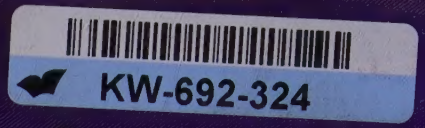
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